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RICHARD TODD ON SANCHEZ {page 28}

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Police nab alleged serial killer in cold-case murders

Cops charge man with murder, say he had a history of violence against women NYPD notifies Suffolk County detectives about the arrest following their serial-killer search One homicide was in the Bronx in 1993 {page 04}

DAVID BEHL

Art. Salvage

This piece of art by Rachel Bullock was destroyed during Sandy. {Page 02}

local

Lawsuit after train death? {page 06}

holiday

Part two of our gift guide {pages 18-22}

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Artists reeling in Sandy's wake

Artists struggle to recover, relocate after flooding ◗ NYC artists and galleries battered by superstorm Sandy ◗ From the Smithsonian to locals, people sign up to help by donating new locations and buying art

Soaked costumes, torn paintings, ripped-apart sculptures — Hurricane Sandy flooded galleries around the city, many situated by the water in neighborhoods like Chelsea.

In Red Hook, a studio hosted "Sandy Hates Art," a damaged-art show last weekend organized after galleries and artists, from Greenpoint to Tribeca, were pummeled by surges of water in the storm.

Chelsea art bookstore Printed Matter is just one example: they lost 9,000 books from their basement storage, totaling an estimated $200,000, an employee said.

The 80-year-old Martha Graham Dance Company had recently moved into an almost-new space themselves: the former Merce Cunningham studios on Bethune Street in Greenwich Village.

"We felt incredibly lucky to receive the space and still do," Artistic Director Janet Eilber said.

But surge waters ripped the doors out of the walls of their 4,000-square-foot basement storage space, tossed around their heavy wooden crates packed with decades worth of iconic costumes and sets, and then remained, 6- to 8-feet-high, for six days.

It took an additional four or five days to pump all of the water out, Eilber said.

Many of the costumes were taken to the Fashion Institute of Technology, where experts are attempting to restore what they can, and the Smithsonian Institute gave them $10,000 to freeze-dry documents.

Others in the dance community offered help: The Joffery Ballet is loaning costumes from Graham works they danced in in recent years.

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MILES DIXON/METRO

▶ Employees are working to clean up the Fraunces Tavern Museum.

Quoted

"Friends and family are the best insurance policy."
LEON REID IV, AN ARTIST AT A COMMERCIAL STREET STUDIO

Sorting out insurance and new spaces

Printed Matter's insurance doesn't cover the basement, as their lease is for the ground-level space.

Greenpoint wood sculptor Rachel Beach noted that such real estate gray areas are common in the arts community.

"Artists take all the weirdo spaces, the cheap spaces that other people won't rent," Beach said.

Beach is looking for a new space since her studio, a shared Commercial Street space, was flooded by waters from nearby Newton Creek — but she is finding it expensive.

"Artists have been priced out of the city," she lamented.

Quoted

"Artists take all the weirdo spaces, the cheap spaces that other people won't rent."
GREENPOINT

Lower Manhattan slow to recover

The South Street Seaport Museum and the Fraunces Tavern Museum are two Lower Manhattan institutions that are unable to reopen since the storm.

Both were fortunate not to lose any of their collection, kept on the upper floors, but floor-to-ceiling flooding in the lower levels knocked out utilities system.

At Fraunces Tavern, waters rose to three feet on the first floor.

Jerry Gallagher, general manager of the South Street Seaport Museum, said it could have been much worse.

Their waterfront director, Captain Jonathan Boulware, assisted by his crew and various museum personnel, spent several days securing the massive ships kept on the water there.

"Our president, Susan Henshaw Jones, was down there pulling lines and tying rope," Gallagher recounted.

DAVID BEHL

▶ Art flooded during storm

In the news

Police search for serial bank robber in city

NEW YORK. Cops are looking for a suspect wanted for eight bank robberies in three boroughs. According to the police, Derek Colon, 24, has entered banks and passed a note to the teller, stealing cash, and the banks he hit range from an Emigrant Savings bank in the Bronx Nov. 10 to a Banco Popular on Forest Avenue in Queens Nov. 23. Colon is described as 24, 140 pounds, with black hair. METRO/AB

In the news

Hearing set for DSK

NEW YORK. Former International Monetary Fund head Dominique Strauss-Kahn and the hotel maid who accused him of sexual assault will appear in New York state court next week. A source familiar with the matter said the two sides had reached a preliminary agreement to settle the case. Criminal charges were dropped in 2011. REUTERS

In the news

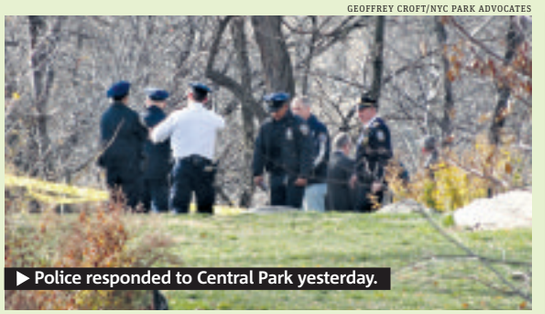
Man slashes woman near child in park

CENTRAL PARK. A woman was slashed in the arm by her common-law husband yesterday in Central Park, police said. An NYPD spokesman told Metro that a 30-year-old woman was slashed around 10:50 a.m. in the Great Hill section of the park, near 106th Street and Central Park West.

The woman was expected to survive and was taken to St. Luke's Hospital. Their child was present, the spokesman said, but was not injured and was taken to a separate hospital "as a precaution."

The man was apprehended at the scene, police said, and he was expected to be charged. A Walk in the Park, the blog by NYC Park Advocates, reported that the man slashed his own wrists and the child was covered in blood. METRO/AB

GEOFFREY CROFT/NYC PARK ADVOCATES



▶ Police responded to Central Park yesterday.

Cops arrest 10 gang member suspects

BRONX. Law enforcement officials boasted the take-down of 10 suspected members of a Bronx street gang Wednesday. The NYPD and the city special narcotics prosecutor said the suspects, all between the ages of 17 and 27, were indicted on charges ranging from conspiracy to commit murder to weapons possession and sales.

Authorities said the defendants are members of the Walton Townsend Gang, known to police for drug dealing, gun sales and street violence. The NYPD said the gang was involved with seven shootings between January 2011 and November 2012. Six firearms were seized during a long-term investigation that had police monitoring the "Top Five" and the "Big Homies," the WTG's tiers of leadership. Investigators also observed gang members' communication with each other through social media sites, including Facebook, where they used coded lingo to talk about criminal activity, authorities said. "The violence that resulted went just as viral until the members of the NYPD 44th Precinct field intelligence unit and strategic enforcement teams stepped in," Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said Wednesday. METRO/CG

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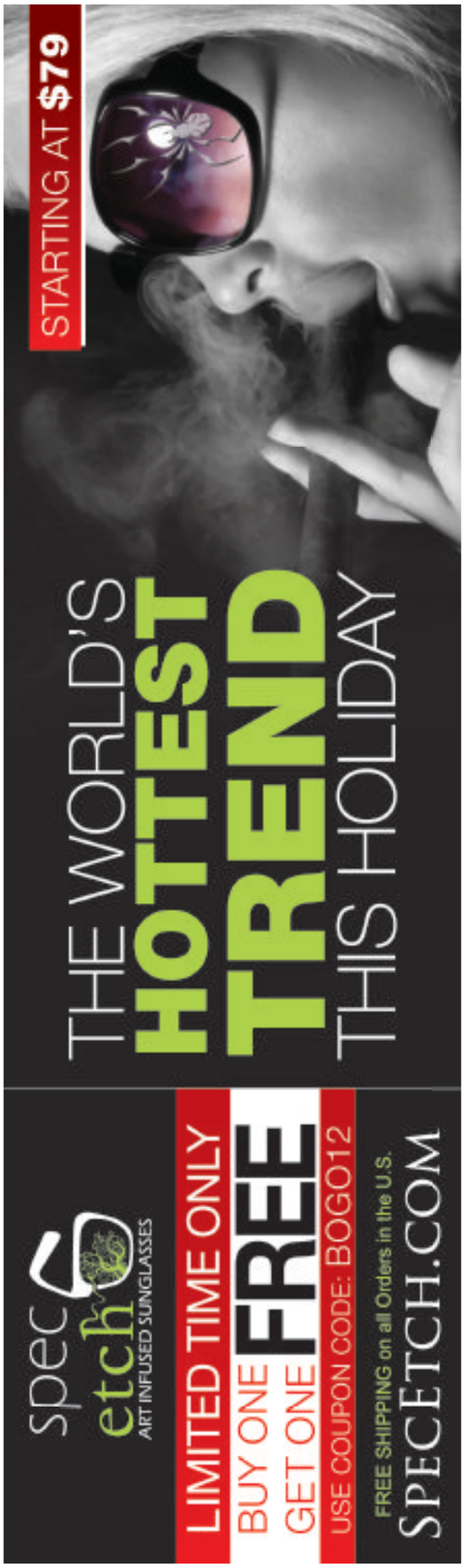

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Police arrest serial killer suspect, notify Gilgo officials

Cops found a dead woman's body on the bed of a suspect they had arrived to arrest, suspecting him of being a serial killer, they said yesterday.

NYPD and Yonkers cops arrested Lucius Crawford, 60, Tuesday afternoon and charged him with murder.

After his arrest, NYPD spokesman Paul Browne said they notified detectives in Suffolk County, where officers suspect a serial killer slayed multiple women near Gilgo Beach.

The NYPD detailed the arrest yesterday, listing a string of decades-old crimes, from Charleston, S.C., to White Plains, N.Y., where they say he slashed and murdered women.

Police say Crawford admitted killing Yonkers resident Laronda Shealy, who was stabbed to death in September 1993.

He also admitted killing Nella West, 38, in 1993 in Riverdale, cops said. West was found stabbed multiple times with a crushed skull.

The women, including the body of a 41-year-old found under the sheet on his bed stabbed nine times, had all been slashed multiple times.

Crawford was identified as a suspect by running old evidence through the DNA database, according to police. He was on parole after serving 13 years in prison for stabbing a Westchester woman, cops said. His tracking ankle bracelet had been removed.

A history of violence

Police said Crawford had an "extensive history of violence against women." Cops released a list of encounters with female strangers, dating from 1973 to 1994, detailing a pattern of slashing women he approached and tried to engage in conversation.

He was imprisoned in 1973 after approaching a woman in Charleston and stabbing her twice in each leg. He was released three years later and stabbed a 28-year-old woman the next year. That year, he was sentenced to 24 years in prison after a five-day stabbing spree. But he was released in 1991 and back in jail in 1995 after a conviction for attempted murder for stabbing a former co-worker 13 times. He was released in 2008.

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Cleaning. Red Hook

▶ A worker cleans in Brooklyn.

JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES

A day laborer removed debris from a flood-damaged home in the Red Hook neighborhood of Brooklyn this week. More than a month after Superstorm Sandy flooded the area, many homes remain vacant and businesses have been slow to reopen in the neighborhood. METRO

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60 seconds with ...

'THEY WERE POSSIBLY IN SHOCK'

Dr. Elizabeth Waterman, a psychologist at Morningside Recovery Centers in Newport Beach, Calif., explained to Metro World News what could be going on inside the minds of the bystanders and people who heard the story.

The photographer for the New York Post claims there was 22 seconds between when the man fell and when he was crushed. Would there be any reason why people wouldn't step forward to help him with the "short" period of time?
They were possibly in shock and trying to process the events that were taking place. Also, the bystander effect ... likely played a role in others not helping.

For the people that witnessed the incident, what could they possibly be going through psychologically? Could PTSD happen from a quick event like this?
PTSD could occur after witnessing this incident, but it would not likely set in during the 22 seconds and caused people not to act. PTSD symptoms must be present for at least one month after a trauma for a diagnosis to be made. Acute stress disorder is diagnosed when symptoms are present for less than one month following a traumatic event.

The photographer is being faulted for not helping out, and since he is one of the people who the public knows was at the scene, it looks like his name and face is taking the brunt of the blame. What could he be going through psychologically, specifically?
It seems as if he was trying to help the individual based on his explanation; however, I cannot say for sure. MWN

Family of man hit by Q train mulls legal action after photo

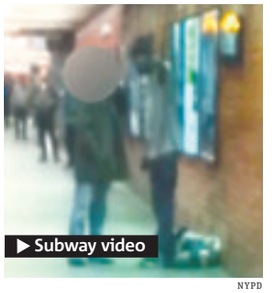
Lawyer tells Metro that family of subway victim is investigating actions of photographer, NY Post and MTA Homeless man charged with murder

The family of the man who was fatally shoved into the path of a subway train has enlisted legal counsel to investigate the actions taken by the photographer who captured the now-infamous image of Ki-Suk Han seconds before he was killed.

The photograph, taken by R. Umar Abbasi, showed Han gripping the platform, unable to pull himself from the tracks, as a Q train sped toward him at the 49th Street and Seventh Avenue subway station Monday. The image was featured on the cover of the New York Post on Tuesday with a headline that read "DOOMED."

Abbasi, a freelance photographer who was on his way from a separate assignment for the Post, said he snapped the photos in an effort to signal the train conductor to stop with his camera flash.

FACEBOOK



NYPD

In interviews Wednesday, he said he was too far from Han on the platform to be able to help him in time. Abbasi also said many onlookers were recording video and taking photos on their cell phones as rescuers pulled Han's bloodied body from beneath the train.

Han died from his injuries.

"We are in the process of conducting an investigation as to the actions taken by the Post photographer and the company, as well as the action taken by transit authorities," Charen Kim, an attorney representing the Han family, told Metro.

She added, "We are trying to perform a thorough investigation before deciding on legal action."

Naeem Davis, a 30-year-old homeless man, was charged yesterday with murder.

Police picked up Davis near 50th Street and Seventh Avenue, not far from the station where the incident occurred. Davis reportedly confessed in police custody Tuesday to pushing Han and fleeing after he saw the train hit him.

"They are distraught, shocked, upset," Kim said of Han's widow and daughter. "And they are constantly reminded by these photos and videos in graphic detail of their father and husband's death."

Han's funeral was scheduled for last night in Flushing, Kim said.

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Majority of Americans support legal marijuana

A majority of American voters support the legalization of marijuana, with men and younger voters holding more tolerant public views about use of the drug, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released yesterday.

Voters in Colorado and Washington approved recreational use of marijuana last month, making them the first states in the country to do so even though use of the drug is still illegal under federal law.

"With the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes legal in about 20 states, and Washington and Colorado voting this November to legalize the drug for recreational use, American voters seem to have a more favorable opinion about this once-dreaded drug," Quinnipiac pollster Peter Brown said.

The public backs legalization by 51 percent to 44 percent, the poll found, but is divided on the issue by age and gender.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Californians voted to legalize medical cannabis use in 1996, clashing with federal drug laws.

59%
Men support legalization by 59 percent to 36 percent

52%
Women oppose legalization by 52 percent to 44 percent

Men support legalization by 59 percent to 36 percent while women oppose it by 52 percent to 44 percent. Two-thirds of voters under the age of 29 support legalization, while a majority of voters over the age of 65 oppose it.

"It seems likely, however, that given the better than 2-1 majority among younger voters, legalization is just a matter of time," Brown said. It was the first time Quinnipiac had conducted a survey on marijuana use.

The Quinnipiac poll also found voters taking a more favorable view of same-sex marriage, supporting it by a narrow margin of 48 percent to 46 percent. In July 2008, voters in the poll were opposed to same-sex marriage by 55 percent to 36 percent. **REUTERS**

The survey

The national survey of 1,949 voters was conducted between Nov. 28 and Dec. 3 and has a margin of error of 2.2 percentage points.

In the news

Call of Duty racks up $1B sales in 15 days

GETTY IMAGES

"Call of Duty: Black Ops II," the latest installment in Activision Blizzard Inc.'s best-selling video-game franchise, topped $1 billion in retail sales within its first 15 days of release.

The sales figure, which relies on Chart-Track retail data, means "Call of Duty" reached $1 billion faster than the movie "Avatar," the record holder for feature films, Activision said in a statement. The previous installment in the series accomplished that same feat last year. It took 16 days to reach the $1 billion milestone, compared with 17 for "Avatar," which came out in 2009. **BLOOMBERG**

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CLEAR CLINIC, THE ULTIMATE ACNE TREATMENT CENTER, OPENS IN THE FLATIRON DISTRICT

New York, NY - Acne breakouts always seem to appear at the worst possible time—the week of a big event or right before a date. Though truthfully, there is no good time for a pimple. Thankfully, the days of waiting weeks to see a dermatologist to help you with your acne-prone skin are over. This week marks the opening of Clear Clinic, a brand new concept in acne care, located in New York City's Flatiron District.

Under the supervision of leading acne specialist and dermatologist, Dr. Eric Schweiger, Clear Clinic is staffed by acne-trained board-certified dermatologists, board-certified physician assistants and licensed clinical estheticians. "The idea for Clear Clinic began to formulate when I noticed how many of my patients were struggling with acne," says Dr. Schweiger. "When people come in for acne treatments, they tend to be not only concerned about their skin, but also embarrassed and ashamed of their condition." To that end, Clear Clinic is the only acne treatment facility that offers in-house mental health professionals to provide patients with complete acne care.

ACNE FACTS

- Nearly 85% of people have acne at some point
- Acne affects 40-50 million Americans, making it the most common skin disorder in the United States.
- 83% of teens have never seen a doctor for treatment of their acne
- Acne scarring occurs to some degree in 95% of patients with acne vulgaris
- 95% of acne patients who do not seek treatment for their acne are left with acne scars

Dr. Schweiger was also compelled to open Clear Clinic after treating many patients who tried to take on their own acne treatment, without the help of a professional. "I have seen many patients in their twenties, thirties and even forties, struggling with acne," says Dr. Schweiger. "And by the time they got to me, they were frustrated after months of trying different treatments and searching for a suitable dermatologist who would accept their insurance." For that reason, Dr. Schweiger created Clear Clinic, a highly specialized center that focuses on the treatment of acne and acne scars."

Clear Clinic provides high-quality, affordable health care to patients who suffer with active acne or residual marks from past acne occurrences. From extractions and cortisone injections to cutting-edge lasers and fillers, Clear Clinic uses a multi-pronged, fully integrative approach to treating acne and acne scars.

The goal behind Clear Clinic is to offer people suffering from acne—whether it be mild, moderate or severe—a place they can depend on to treat them and see them immediately. Clear Clinic takes appointments, but also offers walk-ins—music to the ears of those people with sudden pimples and somewhere important to be that night. One cortisone shot, which is covered by insurance, will treat an acne flare-up with immediate results.

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The staff at Clear Clinic knows how to properly treat patients of every age and skin tone. Dr. Sejal Shah, one of the board-certified dermatologists on staff at Clear Clinic says, "Treating acne in skin of color poses unique challenges. At the Clear Clinic, we have expertise in both medical and cosmetic acne and acne scarring treatments to meet those challenges and ensure that our skin of color patients receive the highest quality care."

Clear Clinic boasts a retail area in the front, stocked with the best cutting edge at-home acne fighting devices and skin care. The entire environment at Clear Clinic is fresh, modern and clean, a compliment to the Flatiron neighborhood, which is fast becoming a beauty destination.

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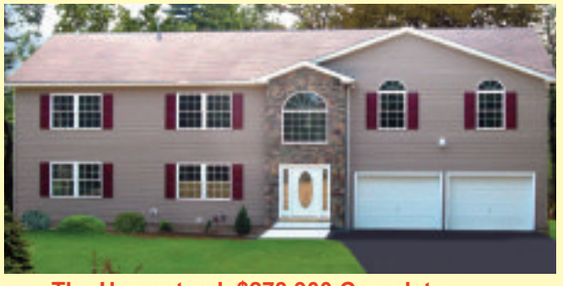

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ACCREDITED BUSINESS

Forbes unveils list of most influential

When it comes to power, politics trumps business, according to a new Forbes ranking yesterday that found heads of state occupying six of the top 10 spots among the world's most powerful people, led by President Barack Obama.

The annual list selected what Forbes said were the world's 71 most powerful people from among the roughly 7.1 billion global populace, based on factors ranging from wealth to global influence.

Obama was joined in the top 10 by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Russian President Vladimir Putin, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz al Saud of Saudi Arabia and British Prime Minister David Cameron.

The list's highest-ranked businessman was Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates at No. 4.

U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and European Central Bank President Mario Draghi, both public officials, also made the top 10.

"This year's list reflects the changing of the guard in the world's two most powerful countries: the United States and China," Michael Noer, Forbes' executive editor, told Reuters in an e-mail.

Noer noted that China President Hu Jintao, last year's third most powerful person, fell off the list as he is leaving power, and his successor, Xi Jinping, ranked ninth instead.

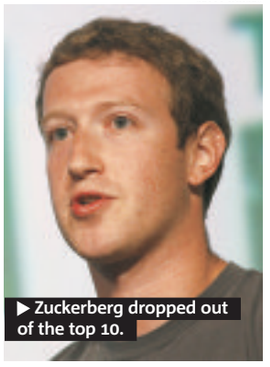
U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who have stated they will not be serving in Obama's second term, were not in this year's rankings.

While elected and appointed officials and business people made up the vast majority of Forbes' most powerful, Pope Benedict XVI placed fifth in the rankings.

Among the oddities was Joaquin Guzman Loera at No. 63. Loera, far from a household name, is a billionaire nicknamed "El Chapo" who, as head of Mexico's Sinaloa cartel, is the world's most powerful drug trafficker, according to Forbes.

Forbes noted Zuckerberg fell out of last year's top 10 after Facebook's IPO disappointed. A gainer, meanwhile, was Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, who moved up four spots despite being only halfway into her first term. REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Zuckerberg dropped out of the top 10.

Age not a factor

Age was also not a barrier, with two of the youngest and oldest of this year's most powerful — 28-year-old Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and 81-year-old News Corp CEO Rupert Murdoch — back-to-back at numbers 25 and 26, respectively.

The calculation

To create the rankings, which Forbes readily concedes bore a measure of subjectivity, editors graded candidates on four criteria for power and averaged the four grades:

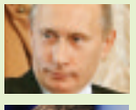
- Power over many people
- Control over financial and other valuable resources
- Power in multiple spheres or arenas
- Active use of power

Top 10

1 Barack Obama
President, United States
Age: 51

2 Angela Merkel
Chancellor, Germany
Age: 58

3 Vladimir Putin
President, Russia
Age: 60



4 Bill Gates
Co-Chair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Age: 57

5 Pope Benedict XVI
Pope, Roman Catholic Church
Age: 85

6 Ben Bernanke
Chairman, Federal Reserve United States
Age: 58

7 Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz al Saud
King, Saudi Arabia
Age: 88

8 Mario Draghi
President, European Central Bank
Age: 65

9 Xi Jinping
Gen. Secretary, Communist Party China
Age: 59

10 David Cameron
Prime Minister, United Kingdom
Age: 46

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Bracelets	Up To	$6,000	Cocktail Rings	Up To	$15,000
Wedding Bands	Up To	$1,000	Charm Bracelets	Up To	$7,000
Diamond Wedding Bands	Up To	$8,000	Earrings	Up To	$10,000
Dental Gold Items	Up To	$800	Cuff Links	Up To	$1,500
Coins & Bullion	Bring in for Quote		Pins	Up To	$6,000
Scrap Gold & Platinum	Bring in for Quote		Rings	Up To	$50,000
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- ✓ Radiant Cut Stones
- ✓ Marquise Cut Stones
- ✓ Trillion Cut Stones
- ✓ Engagement Rings
- ✓ Designer Jewelry
- ✓ Investment Diamonds

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1/2 carat	Up To	$3,000
1 carat	Up To	$15,000
2 carat	Up To	$50,000
3 carat	**Up To**	**$160,000**
4 carat	**Up To**	**$300,000**

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Congress flies toward cliff, McAfee from Belize

TOM WILLIAMS/CQ ROLL CALL

▶ The countdown to the middle class's anti-Christmas

Forget Dec. 21: Jan. 1 is the new doomsday

Both sides dig in on fiscal cliff

Republicans and Democrats dug in on "fiscal cliff" talks yesterday, with both sides urging quick action but offering no compromises in a political stare-down that shows no signs of breaking.

Less than a month before the onset of spending cuts and tax increases that start to take effect in January unless Congress acts, Republican leaders in the House of Representatives called on President Barack Obama to initiate face-to-face talks and blamed him for a lack of action.

"Where are the discussions? Nothing is going on." CANTOR

"We ask the president to sit down with us, be serious about the specifics," House Majority Leader Eric Cantor said. Cantor later said the House would remain in session until "a credible solution to the fiscal cliff" had been announced. **REUTERS**

Corporate weight loss

Citigroup sheds 11K jobs in restructuring

Citigroup Inc., which has lagged behind its peers in recovering from the financial crisis, said it is cutting 11,000 jobs worldwide, about 4 percent of its staff, to save as much as $1.1 billion a year in expenses.

The move will initially result in pre-tax charges of $1 billion against fourth-quarter earnings, the No. 3 U.S. bank by assets said yesterday. The cuts are Chief Executive Michael Corbat's first major steps to reorganize the company since he took the reins in October. Investors welcomed the news. Citigroup shares were up 5.3 percent to $36.11. **REUTERS**

4K Number of Citigroup branches worldwide after the restructuring

Flying south like a duck

McAfee to seek asylum in Guatemala

U.S. anti-virus software guru John McAfee, who is on the run from police in Belize seeking to question him in a murder probe, has crossed into Guatemala and said he will seek political asylum there.

McAfee has been in hiding for three weeks since police in Belize said they wanted to question him as "a person of interest" about the murder of fellow American Gregory Faull, with whom McAfee had quarreled. **REUTERS**

To dupe a duchess

Radio hosts prank Kate's hospital

The London hospital treating Prince William's pregnant wife Kate for severe morning sickness admitted yesterday it had fallen for a prank call from an Australian radio station, relaying personal details about her condition.

Two presenters from the Australian 2Day radio station managed to go one step further after calling the hospital pretending to be Queen Elizabeth and Prince Charles. Despite putting on unconvincing impressions of the royal duo, they were put through to the ward and given intimate details. **REUTERS**

Trump? Feuding? No!

Trump clashes with top Scotch maker

Donald Trump has gone to war wth a leading Scotch whiskey maker in a row over who is Scotland's leading public figure. The Glenfiddich brand sponsors the Top Scot award, which this year went to salmon fisherman Michael Forbes, who has been in the forefront of opposition to Trump's plans for a golf course near the city of Aberdeen.

As a result, Trump banned Glenfiddich and all associated brands from his resorts and hotels. He said the brand ought to be ashamed of itself and said he would sell his own brand of whiskey instead. Glenfiddich rejected his claims. **METRO**

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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

▶ LeAnn Rimes, Eddie Cibrian and his sons.

THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO 'TOOT'

There was a time when **LeAnn Rimes** was world-famous for her talent (right? It's hard for me to remember that long ago). Now she's just known for the petty drama with her long-suffering husband, **Eddie Cibrian**, and his ex, **Brandi Glanville**.

The latest? Glanville is professing to a tabloid that she doesn't want Rimes around her sons, **Mason**, 9 and **Jake**, 5, because, according to her, they mistake her laxatives for candy.

"I, unfortunately, don't find her to be stable and I don't want her around my kids when Eddie's not there — or at least the nanny, his parents, someone," Glanville says of Rimes to Us Magazine. "Mason, my eldest, ate some of Le's candies and got extremely ill. And Le's candies are laxatives. She has one in every purse. Mason found one on the floor and thought it was a Skittle! They don't keep sugar in the house," Glanville explains. "He thought he finally found candy."

You know, you'd think in between learning shapes and colors, L.A. preschools would also teach life lessons to children being raised by celebrity parents. They could teach the difference between a Skittle and a laxative or the difference between your nanny and your mother — the list is endless.

Cibrian actually is reasonable in ridiculous situation

"If my ex-wife truly cared about the welfare of our sons, she would stop the constant bashing on an important person in their lives and focus on productive co-parenting to make our blended family the strongest it can be," he says in a statement to Us Weekly. "And she would do so privately."

Hot. Shot

▶ Carpenter

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Carpenter's pants channel Carol Brady

Jennifer Carpenter attended The Hollywood Reporter's Power 100: Women In Entertainment Breakfast yesterday in Beverly Hills. But her outfit should have been in Boca Raton.

Rumors

Rihanna to wed?

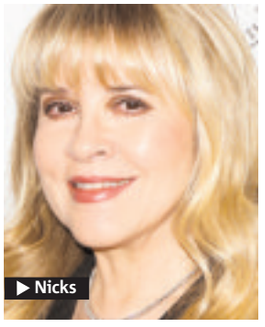
Anyone who follows **Rihanna**'s Twitter feed knows that **Chris Brown** is definitely back in her life, but the latest news still comes as a shock: She is reportedly planning to marry Brown in a secret ceremony while the pair are in her native Barbados for the holidays, per Hollyscoop. One person not thrilled about this? Rihanna's mom. "She called Rihanna to yell at her, asking what she's doing with her life."

Well, if Rihanna is dumb enough to marry Brown, she should probably get used to being yelled at.

Talking points

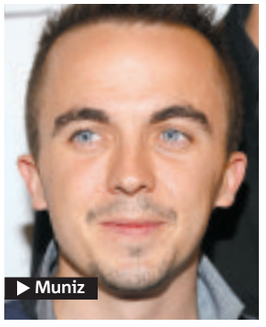
Nicks has Stewart's back

Stevie Nicks is standing by pal **Kristen Stewart** and thinks folks need to cut her some slack in the wake of her cheating scandal from this past summer. "I was her age once, and exactly what happened to her happened to me two or three times, and whoever it was that I was with forgave me all two or three times," Nicks tells Us Weekly. "The fact is that when you're young and you've been in a relationship for a long time and something comes along that is a little bit overwhelming and magical, and you're kind of in another situation with someone else, things happen."



▶ Nicks

Muniz suffers mini-stroke



▶ Muniz

Former "Malcolm in the Middle" star **Frankie Muniz** shocked fans on Twitter with the news that he'd suffered a stroke just days before his 27th birthday. "I was in the hospital last Friday. I suffered a 'mini stroke,' which was not fun at all," Muniz posted. "Have to start taking care of my body! Getting old!" Muniz was taken to an emergency room near his Arizona home after friends noticed he was having trouble speaking.

2

The feed ...

▶ **Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.**

Today, Zachary Quinto has standards, Russell Brand is in need of direction, Michelle Trachtenberg is feeling pretty smart and Joan Rivers has some better ideas for the government.

@ZacharyQuinto: if you are taking pictures with your iPad: i have absolutely no interest in taking our relationship any further than the picture.

@rustyrockets: I'm in Melbourne. Where do I go? What do I do? Who will love me?

@RealMichelleT: Getting the Final Jeopardy answer. #Priceless

@Joan_Rivers: The IRS seized Lindsay's bank accounts to settle her tax debt of $233,904. Why bother? They'll get the same amount by returning her empties.

Trachtenberg

December looks: Red lips on the red carpet

1 **Tori Spelling** and her new baby **Finn McDermott** attended the second annual Santa's Secret Workshop Benefiting L.A. Family Housing at Andaz on Saturday in West Hollywood.

2 **AnnaLynne McCord** posed at the Four Stories Film Series at the W hotel on Tuesday in Westwood, Calif.

3 **Madeleine Stowe** attended the Mending Kids International Celebrity Poker Tournament at The London Hotel on Saturday in West Hollywood.

4 **Keyshia Cole** was at UNCF's 34th annual An Evening Of Stars on Saturday in Pasadena, Calif.

5 **Taylor Swift** posed in her signature red lips at KIIS FM's 2012 Jingle Ball on Saturday in Los Angeles.

6 **Beth Ostrosky Stern** attended the Animal Medical Center's TOP DOG Gala at Cipriani 42nd Street on Dec. 3 in New York City.

7 Along with her "Revenge" co-star Stowe (No. 3), **Ashley Madekwe** also attended the Mending Kids International Celebrity Poker Tournament at The London Hotel.

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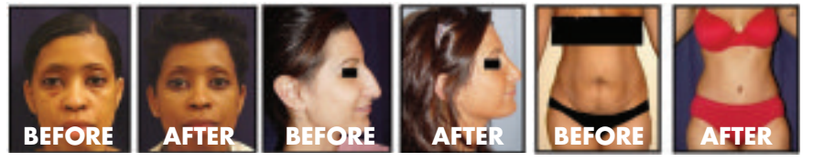
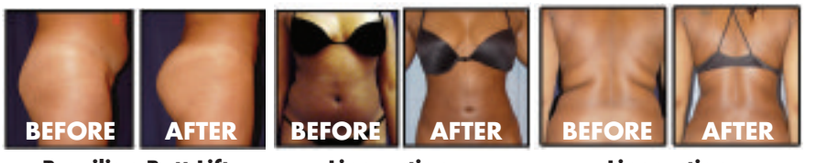


Eyelid Lift | Nose Surgery | Tummy Tuck/Abdominoplasty



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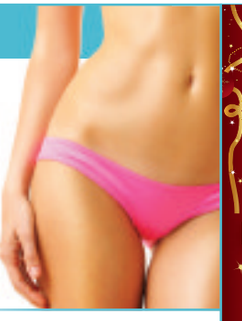

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10 REASONS TO HIT THE MULTIPLEX

Must-see

1 'Playing for Keeps' The latest Gerard Butler rom-com follows a former soccer star (Butler) who tries to salvage his relationship with his young son when he is asked to coach his soccer team. He's a hit with the kids, and the moms aren't complaining either.

DALE ROBINETTE

▶ Jessica Biel and Gerard Butler star in "Playing for Keeps."

2 'Killing Them Softly' This grimy underworld drama follows some fools who rip off a mobster's card game and must answer to an uncompromising enforcer (Brad Pitt).

3 'The Collection' The masterminds of the "Saw" franchise reappear with a new Svengali of torture games: a hooded man who kidnaps a girl and takes her to his elaborate maze of killing machines.

4 'Hitchcock' Sir Anthony Hopkins disappears into the fat suit of Alfred Hitchcock in this film that depicts the making of the suspense master's most widely known film, "Psycho."

5 'Life of Pi' Ang Lee's latest effort, about a young man adrift at sea with only a tiger for company, offers dazzling 3-D visuals and plenty of Oscar buzz.

6 'Rise of the Guardians' Alec Baldwin and Chris Pine loan their voices to this animated feature that imagines mythical figures banding together to protect children from a villain.

7 'The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2' Vampire husband and wife Edward and Bella are on a mission to save their spawn from the evil Volturi.

8 'Anna Karenina' Keira Knightley stars in this adaptation of Leo Tolstoy's celebrated novel about a married socialite.

9 'Silver Linings Playbook' Bradley Cooper stars as a mentally unstable man who finds himself spending time with an equally strange woman (Jennifer Lawrence).

10 'Skyfall' 007's stealthy skills are challenged by a brilliantly evil new adversary: an ex-agent. **METRO**

TV watch list

'Parks and Recreation'

COMEDY. Jerry hosts a holiday party with his wife, played by guest star Christie Brinkley (nice going, Jerry!), but some of his co-workers are shocked when they find out they weren't invited.
9:30 p.m., NBC

'In Vogue: The Editor's Eye'

DOCUMENTARY. Vogue's 120-year history is chronicled in this look at the editors who made the magazine *the* fashion bible. **9 p.m., HBO**

'The Office'

COMEDY. Dwight seizes the moment, thrusting a traditional Schrute German Christmas on his co-workers when the party-planning committee fails to put together a proper holiday shindig. **9 p.m., NBC**

'Beauty and the Beast'

DRAMA. Vincent remembers who first injected him with the drugs that have turned him into a "beast." In other words, it's not a good day to be a mutant-creating doctor.
9 p.m., The CW ● **AMBER RAY**

▶ Jerry's family (from left: Christie Brinkley as Gayle, Sarah Wright as Millicent and Peter Porte as Carl) throws a holiday party on "Parks and Recreation."

DANNY FELD/NBC

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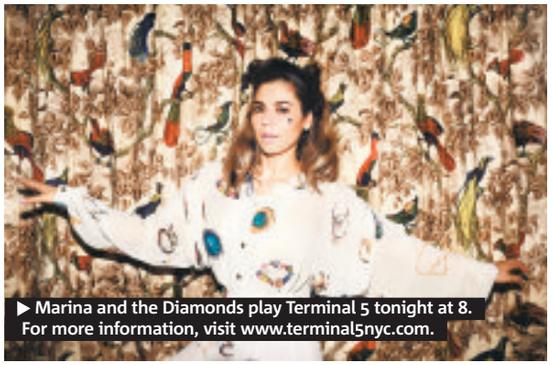
myentertainment

Marina: 'I'm not like them'

The Diamonds singer on trying to be a pop star and getting discouraging phone calls from her manager

CASPAR BALSLEV



▶ Marina and the Diamonds play Terminal 5 tonight at 8. For more information, visit www.terminal5nyc.com.

Upon the release of her 2010 debut LP, "The Family Jewels," it was immediately apparent to anyone paying attention that Marina Diamandis, aka Marina and the Diamonds, was a bona fide international pop star in the making. She had the acrobatic voice, indelible hooks and a crush-worthy look (more on that in a minute), but there was a knowingness about the idea of pop stardom in general embedded in her lyrics that made her appealing to fans who take their pop with a dash of irony. On her recent release, "Electra Heart," the Welsh singer has doubled-down on reaching for the stars, enlisting the aid of hit-making songwriters like Diplo and Dr. Luke.

It's Dr. Luke's effort on first single, "How to be a Heartbreaker" that has brought on Katy Perry comparisons, albeit with qualifiers like "edgier."

Is that supposed to be taken as a compliment or an insult?

"It's neither," says Diamandis. "It's just not true. The thing is, with Dr. Luke, his style is so cemented, I think most people who work with him get his sound. Katy was his first huge success, so it's obvious I'm compared to her. I'm just like, 'Oh whatever.'"

Also getting a big whatever was her label's decision in September to delay the release of the "Heartbreaker" video because, well, they didn't think she looked attractive enough.

She got a call from her manager saying the label didn't like it, she explains: "'They think you need some beauty work,' he said. 'I said, 'I don't care if they think I'm ugly or not, they need to give me a budget if they want me to look botoxed within an inch of my life.'"

Not that she has a problem with that, she says. "I really don't mind. Everything on the album has been in the spirit of that plastic pop element."

LUKE O'NEIL
luke.oneil@metro.us

A different sort of pop star

"Do you know the funny thing? I really wanted to be one," says Diamandis of being a pop star. "Now, after this album, even though it's obviously a pop album, a concerted effort and a very calculated move ... I'm still not one. I'm not like them, not in a horrible way, not like Katy or Rihanna or any of those big pop females."

The rundown

THEATER

'Disgraced'
Through Dec. 23, Claire Tow Theater at Lincoln Center, 150 W. 65 St., $20
"Disgraced" dives into taboo subjects — politics, race and religion — with unmitigated gusto. A dinner between two interracial couples is at the center of the play; predictably, the friends don't get beyond the first course before tensions erupt. "The Daily Show"'s Aasif Mandvi stars. ALYSSA ALPINE

BOOK PARTY

Blake Butler and Sam Michel Release Party
Tonight, 8-10 p.m., Franklin Park, 618 St. John's Pl., Prospect Heights, free
Butler ("Sky Saw") and Michel ("Strange Cowboy") have teamed up with the Franklin Park Reading Series and BOMB to throw a party for the new indie releases. JASON DIAMOND

MUSIC

Os Mutantes
Saturday, 6:30 p.m., Le Poisson Rouge, 158 Bleecker St., $25/$20 advance
Often referred to as the "Brazilian Beatles," Os Mutantes came of age during the psychedelic '60s. Frontman Sergio is the only original member, but he more than carries the band's torch of buoyant, boundary-pushing post-tropicalia. MINDY BOND

Film

Griswold Family Christmas
Friday, 8 p.m., Saturday, 4:30 and 9 p.m., ACME Studios, 63 N. 3 St., Williamsburg, $25-$90
From the people who brought you the "Zoolander" Derelicte Fashion Show, BBQ Films invites you to watch Will Ferrell in "Elf," see the Griswold family hijinx in "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," or watch Gizmo save Kingston Falls in "Gremlins." Any way you slice this triple-threat, you get popcorn, booze, Santa and sexy elves. JD

ART

Ann Hamilton: 'The Event of a Thread'
Through Jan. 6, Park Avenue Armory, 643 Park Ave., $10-$12
Explore what it's like to be literally woven together in Ann Hamilton's demonstration of collective consciousness. Readings, sound installations and swings bring the art to life. LAURA BENIGNO

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Yeah, you owe them a real call

Don't be the person whose idea of breaking up is to disappear entirely

The hookup

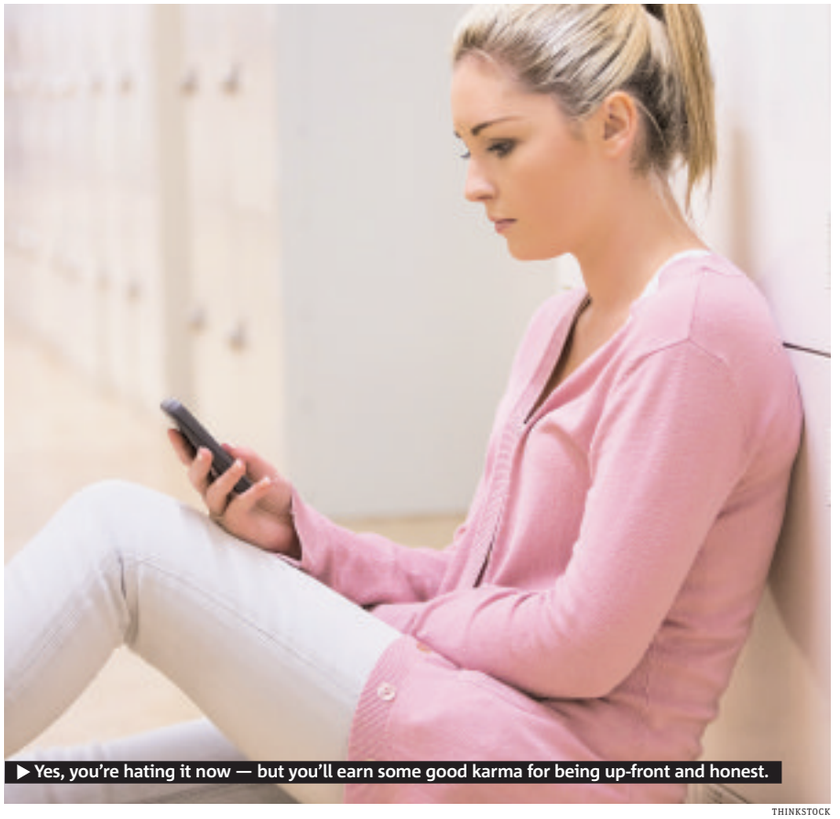
AMBER MADISON
WWW.AMBERMADISONONLINE.COM

It's not a great mystery what it means when you suddenly stop hearing from someone you went on a few dates with. And though this is an acceptable way to end things, is it really the best idea?

I get the rational opinion: Do you really have to break up with someone you've barely started dating? Is it worth the awkwardness? Does he or she even want to hear you uttering out some canned "it's not you, it's me" speech? And perhaps most honestly, would ending it officially (with words) leave you nowhere to turn if the pickings got even slimmer?

Instead of just slinking out of could-be relationships, I think we owe it to each other to suffer through the process of giving an actual rejection — it holds us more accountable for our actions. If someone has spent time getting to know you, you owe them a goodbye. If that goodbye is harder because you led them on a bit or saw something through to five dates that never should have made it to two, then you should have to deal with it.

While dealing with it, why not deal honestly? None of this "I'm busy," "not ready," "it's me" crap that everyone knows is bull anyway. Do the person the favor of saying (nicely) exactly what it is about them won't work for you. What if this person is making the same mistakes over and over and your feedback helps him or her land a better-suited someone next time around?



▶ Yes, you're hating it now — but you'll earn some good karma for being up-front and honest.

THINKSTOCK

*— **Amber Madison** is a Manhattan-based relationship expert and dating coach. She is the author of 'Are All Guys Assholes?' for which she traveled the country, spoke to over 1,000 men and discovered that the answer to this question is no. You can follow her on Twitter /@ambermadi or online at www.ambermadisononline.com*

Why be honest?

We should break up with each other openly and honestly, if for no other reason than it's good practice. When you do finally meet the right person, you're going to have to talk with them about uncomfortable issues, explain your feelings and sometimes say things that might be upsetting. Since many of us shy away from confrontation, this is a great opportunity to face that fear. And in the worst case scenario, if the person you're ending it with fires back with, "Why are you telling me all this?" then you can say "It's not you, it's me."

New release

Learn 'flirtexting' in a new, updated edition

You're in a new relationship when all of a sudden, a misread text or tweet shuts the whole thing down. Debra Goldstein and Olivia Baniuszewicz, self-described digital dating experts, are here to help. These days texts, Facebook messages and e-mails can make or break a potential relationship. Their new updated edition of "Flirtexting: How to Text Your Way Into His Heart" is now available for all of your new tech dating dilemmas. METRO

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Vincent van Gogh. *The Starry Night* (detail). Saint Rémy, June 1889. Oil on canvas. Acquired through the Lillie P. Bliss Bequest.
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Gifts for the hostess

Showing up with any of these will get you first in line for dessert

1. No fireplace? Help her bring some nature in with these all-natural Maple Stick candles, cast from fallen branches. **$30, www.shopterrain.com**

2. Michiko Shimada's ceramic strawberry salt and pepper shakers will give the baby — and dog — some tough competition. **$38, www.stillhousenyc.com**

3. Zara Home's chic teaspoons look way fancier than their **$8** price tag. **www.zarahome.com**

4. Her pigs-in-a-blanket just got classier. **Hen House Linens cocktail napkins, $24 for a set of six, www.henhouselinens.com**

5. Whether they're places you've been or dream destinations, these graphic coasters will get the conversation flowing. **Jonathan Adler coasters, $48, www.jonathanadler.com**

6. Help her stir up some summery cocktails without the processed sugar. And this pretty bottle will add a feminine touch to the bar. **Mariposa Agave Nectar Liqueur, $25, www.heavenhill.com**

7. Cheeky name, pretty label and big taste — all reasons to bring a bottle of Thorny Rose. Plus, she'll appreciate the hostess-friendly screw cap. **$11, wine stores nationwide**

8. You weren't trying to be the star of the soiree — you just happened to show up with these. Take your crown as the most fun party guest. **Tops Malibu Sparklettes, $14, www.topsmalibu.com**

9. Blame Caldrea's new, gorgeous, refillable glass bottles for the hold-up in the bathroom. **$18, www.caldrea.com**

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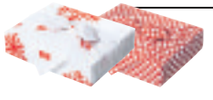

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gift guide

Gifts for the outdoorsy man

He camps, he hikes, he builds bookshelves and he also makes a mean souffle

Here are a few things that are going to make your Renaissance man happy

1. Art in the Age's handsome new gin uses old-world botanicals for a woodsy flavor that works in both savory (for him) and sweet (for you) cocktails. **$30, www.hitimewine.net**

2. iGrill's genius wireless Bluetooth meat thermometer — which works with Apple or Android devices — lets him monitor the grill or oven from up to 200 feet away. **$80, www.igrillinc.com**

3. This map lets him scratch-off where he's been to —or dreaming of exploring next. **Mini Scratch Map, $17, www.restorationhardware.com**

4. When he does shave, this is what he'll want to use. Plus, the lavender-scented cream and oil in this kit meet TSA guidelines. **The Art of Shaving 4 Elements of The Perfect Shave kit, $60, www.theartofshaving.com**

5. Inspired by camping, this candle features cedar and cypress notes. And when it's done, the enamel cup goes with him on his next outdoor adventure. **F.S.C. Barber signature candle, $55, www.fscbarber.com**

6. Take him on a nostalgic ride. These ceramic plates depict some of his favorite winter activities. **L.L.Bean Winter Lodge Plate Set, $40, www.llbean.com**

7. This is no man purse — rather, it's a cool way to lug around his tablets, notebooks and, um, surprise gifts for you. **Filson Tin Cloth Grip Case, $165, www.filson.com**

8. Bialetti's new eco-friendly Aeternum Evolution gray-and-white pans are not only sleek, but they also feature improved heat distribution and an oven-safe handle. **$40, www.bialetti.com**

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gift guide

Gifts for the foodie

These delicious treats will impress even the snobbiest epicurean in your life Let's just hope they share

1. Make your cheese lover really happy with these adorable storage bags, which extend the life of their favorite fromage. **$12, www.shopterrain.com**

2. These happiness-inducing, sweet-and-salty pretzels come in flavors such as banana cream, toffee crunch and pumpkin pie. **$7 for five, www.fattysundays.com**

3. What happens when you mix delicious, all-natural confections with fun, graphic packaging from Mr. Boddington's Studio? A gift that won't make it to the recipient. Bonus: These incredible caramel treats swap in honey for corn syrup. **Droga Put Your Money on Honey caramels, $17, www.drogachocolates.com**

4. Cheese and honey are BFFs. Murray's Three Amigos gift set includes a handmade dipper to assist in getting this addictive combo into their mouths. **$30, www.murrayscheese.com**

5. Add some zest to their cookies and cakes. **Nielsen Massey Pure Lemon Extract, $6, www.surlatable.com**

6. This DIY chocolate tree lets your little artist decorate as they see fit. **Lucas Candies Decorate Your Own Tree, $7, www.lucas-candies.myshopify.com**

7. Of course they'll want some gourmet ketchup to go with those duck fat french fries. This artisan batch subs agave nectar, honey and brown sugar for high-fructose corn syrup and uses puree from vine-ripened tomatoes. **Sir Kensington's ketchup, $7, www.sirkensingtons.com**

8. Classic Panettone in pretty packaging? That's a Christmas win. **Nudo Olive Oil Panettone, $25, www.nudo-italia.com**

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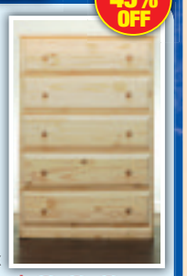

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Letters

letters@metro.us

Hampering boys' natures? That's been done to girls for centuries

RE: "I'M A BOY, I'M A BOY! BUT SOCIETY WON'T LET ME ACT LIKE IT" (METRO, DEC. 5) Actually, women and girls have been de-masculinized, too, only it has been for much longer than the 1990s, as letter writer Rob Donner says males have been. Females need to run, jump, throw, fend for themselves and, believe it or not, fight. In the animal kingdom, no female animal just sits and "looks pretty" in a dress like female humans have been assigned to do by society. In fact, a lot of people are saying that it is abnormal that girls are "suddenly" fighting like boys.

LUCY MARTINEZ, VIA E-MAIL

Maybe it's time for a kinder, gentler world for boys

Sorry, Rob Donner, I like it this way. Thank you, Gloria Steinem.

If you want the old boys, abusive and entitled of one another, fine. But I want new boys: full, whole, respectful, fun, strong and ready. If we think it means to be passive, we aren't there yet.

But only due to the lack of imagination of adult men. I definitely have what I want: a path to owning healthy masculinity. I challenge you and other men, especially fathers, to demonstrate today to boys what manhood is honestly all about. Shall we discuss what that is?

CRAIG NORBERG-BOHM, VIA E-MAIL

Racism is just one small part of bigoted behavior

RE: "ALL IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES CAN BE CHALKED UP TO HATE" (METRO, DEC. 4) Racism is not based on "ethnic, religious, ideological or social" differences as letter writer Nialee Mass states. Racism means hatred or intolerance of another race; hence the root word "race," which is defined as a group of persons related by common heredity, physical characteristics such as skin color, facial form, eye shape, and/or genetic markers.

What the letter describes is called bigotry or prejudice (which racism is a form of). While someone might argue this is semantics and does not take away from the message, I think it is important to identify things correctly and by their proper names.

The letter also makes sweeping, unsubstantiated statements about what "most religious, social and/or ethnic groups" and "most people" do or think.

Additionally, the letter states they do this "now," implying that the degree of human prejudices was somehow less in past times.

NATASHA ASTOR, VIA E-MAIL

Perhaps Victoria's Secret should stay that way

RE: "BACKSTAGE AT THE VICTORIA'S SECRET SHOW" (METRO, DEC. 4) It is shockingly distressing that you need to use Victoria's Secret pornography to attract "readers" in such a gross way as is depicted in Dec. 4 issue. Many people are greatly offended by such exploitation of women. I do not wish my daughter to see smut like that.

ANN DUGGAN, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Unless your efforts are organized and efficient, things aren't likely to work out too well. If you're impulsive, problems could arise.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Keep an open mind, and you'll find that situations will automatically adjust themselves to your satisfaction. Any feelings of unfairness will be of your own creation.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Be extremely mindful of your behavior if you are involved in an arrangement with a friend that requires an investment from both. Either one of you could feel put upon.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Endeavors you manage solely will have excellent chances for success. Problems could quickly develop, however, if you have to share your authority with another.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Be sure to treat serious matters with the respect they deserve. Left unresolved, they are likely to rear their ugly heads.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Heed the warning signs that impel you to wrap up all important projects and to not take a gamble when it comes to choosing a delegate for a vital task.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Although you're an excellent conceptualizer, you aren't likely to be equally as competent where execution is concerned. Make a good game plan and follow it through.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Even though you are quite adroit at managing your material affairs, you may not be too impressive at handling personal relationships. Stick to what you do best.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** It is far better to go without than to make a bad deal with strings attached. In order to get what you want or need, it would be better to wait until the timing is right.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Unless you set a shining example, don't expect your friends and associates to behave perfectly. On the contrary, they will emulate you.

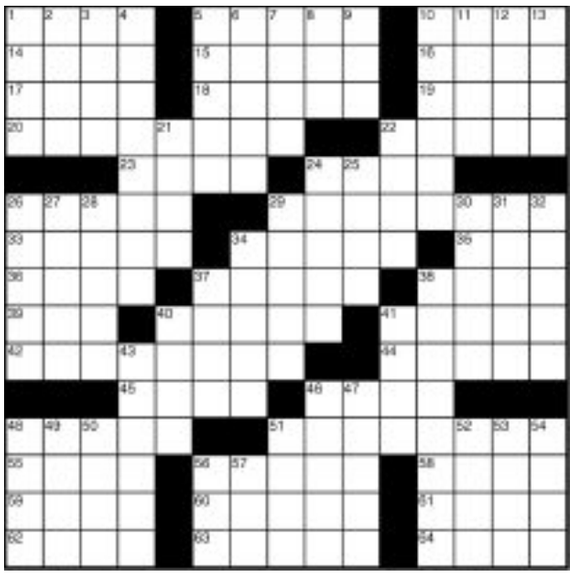
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Those with whom you are involved aren't likely to tolerate any heavy-handed tactics. Use measures that are fair but firm, and be considerate of others' feelings.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** When and where your expectations are within feasible perimeters, things should work out reasonably well for you. You're not apt to get something for nothing.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Staffs
5 Play place
10 Junk email
14 Mr. Baldwin
15 Put the whammy on
16 Realtor's offering
17 Eye protector
18 Big game for bwana
19 Name in essays
20 Memorabilia
22 Primp
23 Garage job
24 Handy swab (hyph.)
26 Eucalyptus muncher
29 Aptly
33 — to the teeth
34 Brief sparkle
35 Blended whiskey
36 1917 abdicator
37 Please greatly
38 "— Smile" (Hall & Oates tune)
39 Untold centuries
40 Shaman's findings
41 Brownies
42 Kind of turtle
44 Beauty's swain
45 Not theirs
46 Sunblock additive
48 Machines for weaving
51 Ritzier
55 Ms. Thompson of films
56 Gold-orange gem
58 Groundless, as fears
59 Sooner city
60 Habituate
61 Beak
62 Wind catcher
63 Geologic samples
64 Pleased

Down
1 Actress — Powers
2 Mr. Greenspan
3 Bird's abode
4 German poet
5 Rose bush
6 Giggle (hyph.)
7 Gyroscope part
8 Mil. rank
9 Tokyo of old
10 Everest guide
11 Guide a raft
12 Brigitte's friend
13 Vicious
21 Campus area
22 Cussler hero
24 Gives notice
25 Antler prong
26 Winslet and Beckinsale
27 Bean or Welles
28 Iowa commune
29 Street lingo
30 Shout to a diva
31 Early harps
32 Nutritional supplement
34 Hollows
37 Qatar ruler
38 Taming hair
40 Opera or symphony
41 Poet's black
43 Brilliantine
46 Not in the dark
47 Lolls in a hammock
48 Chive relative
49 Former Atlanta stadium
50 Jump over
51 Urge on
52 Elvis, to some
53 Famed lioness
54 Bulrush or cattail
56 Nervous twitch
57 She loved Lennon



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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Solution to yesterday's crossword

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food&drink

Your winter brew round up

The weather outside might be frightful, but your beer selection doesn't have to be These seasonals are the perfect partners for the chilly months ahead

Here's a little winter brew 101 for you: Did you know that these specialty winter beers were originally created by brewers to give as a gift to their good customers and friends around the holidays? Pretty soon they became so popular that breweries (and their marketing and accounting departments) decided it would be a good idea to distribute them to a larger audience.

"They are the beers you want to curl under a blanket with." HARTINGER, ON WINTER BEERS

"Typically, summer beers are expected to be quenching; they are less strong and have higher notes of flavor and are crisp and aromatic," says Craig Hartinger, marketing manager at Merchant du Vin, a specialty beer importer, about the difference between summer and winter brews.

"Winter brews are for when the weather is cold, so they have deep, richer flavors. They are the beers you want to curl under a blanket with."

So do what the man says: Grab a blanket and read on for a few good partners.

Ayinger's Weizenbock

Usually when you think of a winter seasonal, you think of darker beers. Not so with this Weizenbock from the German brewery, Ayinger, which has been cranking out brewskies since 1878. For their winter brew, they amplified a traditional wheat beer to make it taste like a wheat beer on steroids.

Newcastle Winter IPA

The limited edition Newcastle Winter IPA boasts a copper color with a strong hop aroma, subtle caramel notes, a full body and a balanced finish, staying true to the traditional characteristics found in British-style IPAs. Very balanced and drinkable.

Samuel Smith's Winter Welcome Ale

The Winter Welcome Ale isn't as thick as you would expect from the noted brewer's winter seasonal. In fact, the Winter Welcome Ale is a pretty accessible, balanced brew with hints of malt and caramel hops.

Guinness Generous Ale Winter Selection variety pack

With a festive red label festooned with gold script, Guinness Generous Ale will match any holiday party quite nicely. It can be found in their Winter Selection Variety along with Guinness' Draught, Foreign Extra Stout and Black Lager (three of each). Unlike a traditional Guinness, the amber Generous Ale is surprisingly crisp and carbonated.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Innis & Gunn Winter Beer 2012

Innis & Gunn's Winter Beer was inspired by a 19th century-beer recipe that their CEO discovered in an old book. Their Winter Beer is heavy on the malt with hints of molasses, fruit and chocolate.

music&food

Songza

Reggae Christmas

Tired of the played out holiday songs already? Try "Natty & Nice: A Reggae Christmas," at **www.songza.com/discover/culture/christmas/natty-and-nice-a-reggae-christmas-songza**. You'll get "Happy Christmas" by Toots and the Maytals (pictured) and classics you already know, but set to skanking beats.

— Songza is a streaming platform that mines years of music history and today's music blogs for the best gems, so you don't have to. Each week Metro teams up with Songza to bring you fun new playlists.

Lightened Italian fare: It's out there!

It's no wonder Kristin Sollenne developed a passion for food: "I was always in the kitchen with my parents and my grandparents for big Italian family dinners," she says. But when she noticed her parents gaining weight, she applied the nutritional know-how she got at California State to help them drop some serious pounds. Her folks' new healthy lifestyle was the kicker she needed to move to New York and make a name for herself. As the chef at Bocca di Bacco, which is opening its third location in the city today, she's out to prove that Italian food does not have to be calorie-dense.

So what's on the menu?

As specials we've introduced fresh spinach spaghetti with sundried tomatoes and pine nuts — just a very simple dish. I have a chestnut and porcini ravioli. We did an eggplant pasta. I like introducing things to people that taste amazing. It's not that you have to compromise on your taste, and it's healthier than the traditional Italian food.

What are some foods you're looking forward to cooking with this season?

Especially around this time I love incorporating pumpkin: pumpkin ravioli, pumpkin gnocchi. I love butternut squash for purees and soups. Chestnuts, I love making a really nice pureed sauce with those. I do a chestnut ravioli. A big thing for me this winter is definitely infused pastas. Instead of the heavy starches that the normal pastas are, why not fill them with spinach or eggplant, pumpkin or chestnut? We make all of our pastas fresh, homemade, so that's definitely something that I always look forward to.

Do you have a favorite item on the menu?

Oh, I have lots of favorites. We do something that's very rare that you probably won't find at any other restaurant: It's called our Cavatelli Di Grano Arso, which is burnt wheat cavatelli. It's a flour that actually comes from Puglia, Italy, and I was introduced to it by a colleague of mine. They don't distribute it to the U.S., so basically we had to develop our own way to create this flour. After several attempts, we came up with the perfect combination and we created this burnt wheat cavatelli. We serve it with a venison sausage and a light gravy sauce which is absolutely delicious. And that I like just because it's so different.

What would you cook to impress a date?

Is he Italian? [Laughs] Just kidding. The grilled octopus, the homemade fettuccine Bolognese — you can't go wrong with it — and then our pistachio profiteroles for the dessert. Pistachios I think are great for cleansing the palette. It's a great way to end the meal.

MEREDITH ENGEL
meredith.engel@metro.us

Hot chef

▶ Kristin Sollenne is the chef at all three Bocca di Bacco locations in the city, including the newest, at 169 Ninth Ave. (212-989-8400).

"My philosophy is keep it simple. When you go to the farmers market and you use fresh produce, you don't really have to do much to make the flavors — they speak for themselves." SOLLENNE

At the market

What should home cooks be picking up at the farmers market this winter?

I would definitely say butternut squash — you can do so much with that and incorporate it into a lot of different dishes. You can always pick up great spinach. I've noticed more people have brought up kale, which is interesting because that's kind of something new. Fresh pumpkin, you can do so much with that this time of year, I would definitely say eggplant — all these great vegetables that you can use in so many different forms.

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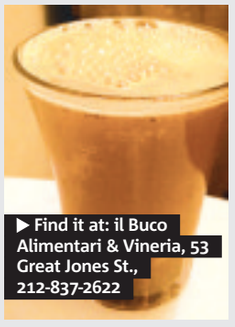


▶ Find it at: il Buco Alimentari & Vineria, 53 Great Jones St., 212-837-2622

Marrone

- 2 oz. Basil Hayden's bourbon
- 8 oz. apple cider
- 1 tsp. crushed star anise and smoked cinnamon (adjust amount according to personal preference)

Directions: Add crushed star anise and smoked cinnamon to the cider, and dissolve over medium heat just until you still have texture from the spices. Pour in the bourbon. Steep until warm, and serve.

Apple Pie Hot Toddy

- ¾ oz. honey
- ½ oz. lemon juice
- 2 oz. Midnight Moon Apple Pie-flavored Moonshine
- 10 oz. hot water
- 1 Cinnamon Apple Spice tea bag
- Apple Pie filling garnish (made from Granny Smith apples with sugar, cinnamon and vanilla extract)
- Granny Smith Apple chip

Directions: Add honey, lemon juice and apple pie moonshine into your serving glass. Pour in the hot water and stir until all ingredients are the same consistency. Drop the tea bag into the mixture and let sit while you prepare your apple pie filling garnish. Place apple pie filling garnish and apple chip garnish on rim, and serve.

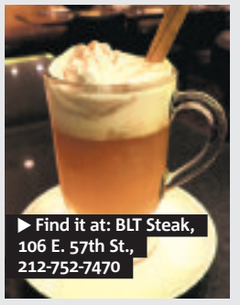
TANYA BLUM

▶ Find it at: Marble Lane, Dream Downtown, 355 W. 16th St., 212-229-2559

Ruby Slipper

- 1 oz. Makers Mark bourbon
- 1 oz. Grahams Six Grape Ruby Port
- 3 oz. double-brewed Harney & Sons Cinnamon Tea (use 2 tea bags)
- ¼ oz. simple syrup

Directions: Combine bourbon, Ruby Port and simple syrup in a double rocks glass. Top it off with brewed tea and garnish with orange zest.



▶ Find it at: BLT Steak, 106 E. 57th St., 212-752-7470

Chai-Spiced White Hot Sangria

- 3 oz. Palacios White Rioja
- 1.25 oz. apple brandy
- 1.25 oz. chai spice reduction
- 1 oz. honey ginger essence
- ½ oz. lime juice

Directions: Shake ingredients and garnish with Cardamom-Orange Scented Whipped Cream (recipe below) and ground cinnamon.

- 2 cups heavy cream
- ½ tsp. ground cardamom
- ½ tsp. of orange blossom extract

Whip to consistency

CINDY AUGUSTINE
letters@metro.us

Restaurant notes

Now open

▶ **Willow Road**
85 10th Ave., 646-484-6566
A local and seasonal ingredient-focused gastropub facing the Highline.

▶ **The Strand Smokehouse**
25-27 Broadway, Astoria, no phone number yet
Barbecue with all the fixins' in a honkey-tonk setting.

▶ **Benares Downtown**
45 Murray St., 212-766-4900
A new FiDi location for the seafood-focused Indian restaurant.

Cheap furniture and Swedish eats

IKEA is hosting its Julbord buffet, a traditional holiday smorgasbord of Swedish delights like meatballs, Gravad lox and lingonberries, at its stores this Friday. Seats are limited. $13 for adults, $5 for children, **www.ikea-usa.com**

Try these breakfasts

▶ **The Russian Tea Room**
150 W. 57th St., 212-581-7100
The opulent dining room is now offering dishes like Czar's Eggs, two soft-boiled eggs topped with salmon roe and served with blini.

▶ **The Queens Kickshaw**
40-17 Broadway, Astoria
718-777-0913
The cozy grilled-cheese-and-coffee joint has a new brunch menu, featuring omelets, French toast and — wait for it — its Egg & Cheese Grilled Cheese, with ricotta, thyme and maple hot sauce.

▶ Queens's Kickshaw

Grown-up tea party

The SALONTEA Sunday Tea Party Series at **Harding's (32 E. 21st St., 212-600-2105)** kicks off this Sunday with tea expert Tracy Stern in attendance. The $37 prix fixe menu from 3:30-5:30 p.m. includes tea and tea cocktails, plus poached salmon sandwiches, leek tarts, chicken salad and a number of sweet treats.

Loads of latkes

Seventeen chefs will compete this Monday at the fourth annual Latke Festival. Attendees will get to taste the chefs' interpretations, plus mini bialys, sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts), He'Brew beers and other drinks. A panel of judges, including last year's champ and editors from Saveur and Zagat, will crown the winner. **6:30-9 p.m., BAM, 30 Lafayette Ave., Brooklyn, $55 per person**

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Here today, gone tomorrow

Richard Todd can sit in his office at J.P. Morgan in Atlanta today, remembering the time he was embroiled in a quarterback controversy with the Jets. Todd, now 59, was the Jets' first-round pick in the 1976 NFL Draft and the man tabbed as Joe Namath's heir apparent.

It didn't work out. But he was in a position not unlike Mark Sanchez is today — a first-round pick currently flirting with being a bust.

94 Games started by Richard Todd for the Jets from 1976-83. He threw 110 touch-downs and 138 interceptions.

"That's all I've heard my whole life — how hard it was to follow Joe Namath," Todd told Metro this week. "Coming to New York and playing with Joe was unbelievable, and I would not trade that experience for anything. I am sure Mark, coming in from USC, did not feel the pressure of following [Brett Favre]. That is more of a media infatuation than players' thoughts or concerns. Joe was a New York quarterback; Favre was a hired gun."

Sanchez's struggles this year are well documented. He was benched for Greg McElroy, a graduate of Alabama like Todd, against Arizona. But Todd supports the man in much the same position he was 30 years ago.

"Expectations are always high in professional football and more so in New York. Mark is the same quarterback as he was two years ago," Todd said. "All I hear is he has regressed. My comment to that is I think the team has regressed also."

KRISTIAN DYER
sports@metro.us

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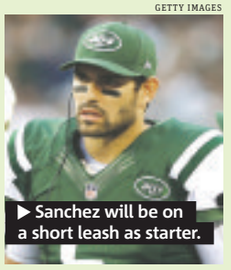

▶ Sanchez will be on a short leash as starter.

Ryan sticks with Sanchez against Jags

Jets head coach Rex Ryan confirmed what most already suspected was coming. Mark Sanchez will start this Sunday in Jacksonville.

"When I looked at everything, the biggest thing I kept coming back to is what I mentioned before. Who gives us the best opportunity to win, in particular this week? When I kept coming back to that, I believe the correct answer is Mark Sanchez," Ryan said. "With that being said, I understand that he has to play better. He has to protect the ball better."

Ryan said Tim Tebow would be the No. 2 quarterback, as long as he is healthy. He'll make that decision based on practice this week. **METRO/KD**

In the news

Chavez gone

The options at third base for the Yankees are quickly dwindling.

Eric Chavez, who backed up Alex Rodriguez the past two seasons, signed a one-year, $3 million contract with Arizona yesterday. Chavez lives in the Phoenix area.

The Yankees also lost out on Jeff Keppinger, who signed with the White Sox for three years and $12 million. New York is still reportedly talking to former Sox star Kevin Youkilis.

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In the news

NHL lockout lingers on

The season has not been saved. But the prospect of nuclear winter is not upon the NHL.

The league and the NHLPA engaged in continued meetings yesterday in an attempt to end the now 81-day-long lockout, including a proposal the players presented to the league after a Board of Governors meeting.

"They're talking and that's the most important thing. As long as you keep talking, there has to be substance," Devils GM Lou Lamoriello said. "I've always been hopeful there'd be a season until there isn't. We just have to leave it in the hands of the people that are talking." **DENIS GORMAN**

Giants turn focus to Saints after bad loss

AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Pierre-Paul and the Giants control their own destiny.

The Giants have no time to sulk over their Monday night loss to division rival Washington, because their remaining schedule is brutal — including Sunday's matchup with the desperate Saints.

"I'm just looking at it one game at a time, [and] the one that's right in front of you is a New Orleans team that has battled and played very well of late. That's what we'll focus on," said Coughlin. "We go in knowing full well it's a four-game season and we have to win, literally, every one of our games. That's how I look at it. … Win the games that are presented."

The Saints have always presented a problem under Coughlin's watch, but those historic Big Blue meltdowns were in the comfy confines of New Orleans' Superdome. Now that the Giants get the Saints in frigid MetLife Stadium, Coughlin hopes they can start their customary late-season run.

"I certainly think we will [play with urgency], and I hope we will, so I don't know why we wouldn't," Coughlin said.

Defensive end Jason Pierre-Paul thinks Monday's loss will be extra incentive for the Giants, as it's their custom to rally from within when times get tough.

"We've been saying let's just go out there and play like a team that's the underdogs," Pierre-Paul said. "That's basically what we can do." **TONY WILLIAMS**

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NFL news

New Ballard

Over the last six weeks, **Vick Ballard** has quietly gotten 14.6 touches per game. That number is about to go up. Donald Brown sprained his ankle last week and has been ruled out of Week 14.

Somehow, the old saying "dance with the girl you brought" got tied into fantasy football.

The idea that we should start a certain player because he led us to this point is silly. Although this week has more importance, it's completely independent of prior weeks.

Trending up

At this point in the season, strange things start to happen. Hurt players on bad teams sit out longer and coaches use the final four games to evaluate young talent. We need to get on board early with the **Bryce Brown** and **Danario Alexander** types. **Kenny Britt** and **Jared Cook** are prime candidates to take advantage of their situation. **Marcedes Lewis** is emerging in Jacksonville. **Pierre Garcon** is healthy and showing difference-making ability.

Trending down

We can't keep going back to guys that have gone in the tank. **Brandon Lloyd** hasn't topped 45 yards since Week 6. **Ryan Mathews** doesn't have his coach's trust. We can find tight ends more involved in their team's game plan than **Vernon Davis**. We don't have to dance with the big names.

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▶ Don't stick with Vernon Davis just because he's been your starting tight end all year.

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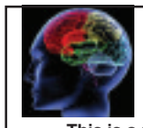

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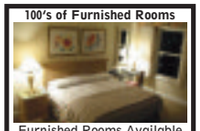
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